

Wes Anderson



**Drill sergeants of the year SSG Christopher Sharpe (left) and SSG Damian McIntosh were among 19 competitors for the honor.**

## Fort Monroe, Va.

### Top Drill Sergeants Honored

SSG Damian McIntosh will always remember the last graduation ceremony of new soldiers he trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The active-Army Drill Sergeant of the Year for 2000 recalled a young woman among the military police of his one-station-unit-training platoon. Her background was far from privileged.

"The private came up to me and said: 'Drill Sergeant, I'd like to thank you. I'm somebody now.'"

"I said: 'You've always been somebody. We just made you realize you were somebody. You did everything yourself.' I had to leave at that point because I was getting kind of choked up," McIntosh said.

That is something that the Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year for 2000, SSG Christopher Sharpe, seldom experienced. He also trained recruits at Fort Leonard Wood during his annual two-week active duty, but he's only attended one

graduation of troops he has trained.

"That's the worst thing about being in the Reserve," said Sharpe, a member of the 98th Training Division in Rochester, N.Y. "You form such a tight bond with them over those two weeks and then you're gone. I've really missed that, being able to take them through a whole course and then look at the finished product."

McIntosh and Sharpe were among 19 drill sergeants — 12 active and seven Reserve — competing at Fort Monroe in June.

Both men will now be representatives for drill sergeants in their respective Army components. McIntosh will be assigned to Training and Doctrine Command headquarters, where he will help oversee the drill sergeant program.

Sharpe will have similar duties after he becomes an instructor in the drill sergeant school at Fort Dix, N.J.

One goal the two NCOs have in common is improving the ways the active and reserve components work together to train new soldiers.

McIntosh is the third con-

secutive active-duty NCO from Fort Leonard Wood to be named the top drill sergeant. He trained future military police in the OSUT program for Company D, 795th Military Police Battalion, 14th MP Brigade, until winning the post's drill sergeant of the year title. Then he was transferred to the Maneuver Support Center drill sergeant school there to be an instructor.

Sharpe will be a Reserve drill sergeant academy instructor at Fort Dix. As a civilian, he

is a police officer with Rutgers University. He hopes to enter the New Jersey State Police academy this fall.

The drill sergeants said they think young people and Americans in general have a mistaken impression of what drill sergeants are like today. Older generations tell how mean their drill sergeants were, and movies give a false portrayal, they said. On top of that is bad publicity generated by the misdeeds of a few drill sergeants.

## Award News

### Army Establishes Annual Deployment Awards

DEPLOYING units and deployment-support organizations that meet established deployment standards now can have their efforts recognized with a new award.

The Chief of Staff of the Army Deployment Excellence Award promotes development of innovative deployment initiatives and the sharing of these skills with the rest of the Army to improve the deployment process.

"Force projection requires the ability to respond quickly and decisively to global requirements with military forces. Strategic mobility is the foundation for force-projection operations. It is the capability to deploy and sustain forces worldwide," said Jesse Hamilton, chief of the Deployment and Deployment Systems Department at the U.S. Army Transportation School, the executive agent for the award.

Awards will be presented to winners from active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve organizations.

Units and installations compete in one of three functional areas: deploying unit, supporting unit and installation. Unit awards will be presented in small (team, detachment) and large (company to brigade) categories.

The program is open to units or installations that have executed or supported a training or contingency deployment during the competition year. The competition year for the first award began April 1 and ends March 31, 2001.

Eligible competitors must submit nominations to their major commands. Winners are sent to the Transportation School for an Army-level evaluation.

In addition to reviewing written submissions, teams of deployment specialists will visit organizations for first-hand grading of deployment practices.

Implementing guidance and evaluation criteria are on the Transportation School homepage at [www.transchool.eustis.army.mil/DEA/DEA.htm](http://www.transchool.eustis.army.mil/DEA/DEA.htm). — *TRADOC Headquarters News*

"Once recruits get here, it's not like that at all," McIntosh said. "I think if we can break that barrier down, we're going to see a lot more kids coming into the Army."

Sharpe and McIntosh each received the Meritorious Service Medal for their achievements.

At the awards ceremony TRADOC commander GEN

John N. Abrams called the 19 competitors "standard bearers for us" and "the catalyst for re-dedication to professionalism."

Abrams told the audience: "People ask us why we are different as an Army. This is the most important reason standing before you. They Army's as good as they are. We are no better than they are." — *TRADOC Headquarters News*

## Finance News

### New Pay Inquiry Features

THE Interactive Voice Response System, started two years ago by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, has added several new features to make the system more customer-friendly.

IVRS is an information-retrieval system that allows active-duty Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve personnel to obtain current pay information. Soldiers access IVRS by using a personal identification number, their social security number and a touch-tone telephone.

The system's new features are:

- Access by calling a toll-free number, (888) PAY-ARMY [(888) 729-2769], (DSN) 699-0665 or (317) 510-0665.
- Active-duty service members will be able to review online bonds purchased and bonds in safekeeping.
- National Guard and Reserve members will be able to learn current and previous pay disbursements made to their bank accounts, including deposit information and Servicemen's Group Life Insurance election information. Tax and W2 information will also be available.

The system will continue to let soldiers get information about their direct-deposit accounts, allotments, bonds, taxes and leave balances. Soldiers can also retrieve generic information about procedures for nonreceipt of allotments, retrieving bonds in safekeeping, and reporting lost or stolen bonds. There is direct access to a bond specialist, and information is available for estimated earnings for civilian retirement.

PIN assignment is centrally controlled. All soldiers will receive notification of their temporary PINs through the mail. Active-duty members will receive it at their unit addresses and National Guard and Reserve soldiers will receive it at their homes of record. Reserve-component soldiers are encouraged to review their home addresses to ensure prompt delivery of this notification.

Soldiers are required to customize their temporary PINs within 120 days of issuance. A notice will be placed on the soldier's leave and earning statement whenever the PIN is changed. — *DFAS-Indianapolis Public Affairs Office*

## Fort Bragg, N.C.

### Window Honors Airborne Chaplains

A NEW 82nd Airborne Division stained-glass window honoring Army chaplains was dedicated by Army Deputy Chief Chaplain (BG) David Hicks at Wood Memorial Chapel, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The triple-lancet window is 12 feet wide and 15 feet high. The central lancet pictures an 82nd Abn. Div. chaplain ministering in the field to three kneeling soldiers. Beneath the group is a symbolic rendering of two hands enfolding a chapel, symbol of the chaplain assistant, and the text, "O save your people and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever," from Psalm 28:9.

The chaplain holds a shepherd's crook in his left hand. In the distance, parachutists jump from a C-130. At the top of the window is the chaplain regimental crest inscribed with *pro deo et patria* (for God and country) and the founding date, 1775.

Flanking windows bear insignia: on the left, the "AA" of the 82nd Abn. Div. "All Americans," and the wings granted to master parachutists; on the right, the wings of the historical glider unit, and the figure of archangel Michael, a figure in Christian, Jewish and Islamic lore and patron of all airborne forces. A ribbon of primary colors flows around each lancet.

The window is the most recent in a series created for the division chapel. — *The Willett Stained Glass Studio*



Willett Stained Glass Studio

The newest stained-glass window at Fort Bragg's Wood Memorial Chapel honors airborne chaplains.





As depicted in this artist's rendering, an exhibit in the new Airborne and Special Operations Museum will use a full-scale setting of a war-torn French village to depict war's devastation.

## Fayetteville, N.C.

### Museum Honors Airborne, Special Ops

ON Aug. 16, 1940, the soldiers of the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon made their first jump. Sixty years later, on Aug. 16, National Airborne Day, the Army will open a museum dedicated to those soldiers and their successors.

The Airborne and Special Operations Museum will let visitors hear, feel and imagine the fear and victory experienced by paratroopers, glider troops and special operations soldiers through interactive displays and life-size exhibits.

The opening ceremony will begin with a jump by the Army Parachute Demonstration Team and a flyover by Air Force C-130 and C-17 aircraft.

The museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. except

Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information call (910) 483-3003 or visit the website at [www.asomf.org](http://www.asomf.org). — *Airborne and Special Operations Museum PAO*

## Dugway Proving Ground

### Dugway Shares Decon Techniques

WITH all the water and aerosol foams around, it could have been the scene from a child's party, but the purpose of these substances is much more beneficial.

The 11 displays were set up at Michael Army Air Field, here, to show off chemical and biological decontamination systems to participants of Decon 2000, sponsored by the Joint Service Materiel Group Decontamination Commodity Area Manager in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The demonstration day included 11 active demonstrations of decontamination tech-

nologies and 17 static displays, and tours of Dugway's extensive capabilities for testing chemical and biological defensive equipment.

The Air Force Reserve's

757th Airlift Squadron showcased the large-area spray decontamination system that can be mounted in a C-130 for quick and efficient aerial spraying.

More than 300 people representing government, academia and industry from 12 countries attended the conference and demonstrations.

Bill Davis, Dugway coordinator for the demonstration day, said: "The technologies demonstrated today are being evaluated for their ability to make the decontamination process easier, more environmentally friendly and less toxic to the warfighter." — *DPG PAO*

## Washington

### Soldiers' Home Building Endangered

EVERY month, enlisted soldiers and airmen have 50 cents deducted from their pay under the heading of AFRH (Armed Forces Retirement Home) to support the historic U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, lo-

## Internet News

### New Website Meets Reservists' Needs

THE Army Reserve Personnel Command is rolling out a dramatically new and improved web site that is better focused on the needs of Army Reservists.

"Our information-technology goal is to take advantage of the best practices from the corporate sector and align them with our vision of moving information at the speed of electrons," said COL Timothy Cannon, AR-PERSCOM commander.

The new website will be phased in incrementally over the next several months. The first step began in June with the overlay of new graphics over the current site.

By late in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2000, new web applications and functionality will be incorporated into the site based on the products and services requested in a customer survey. To complete the survey, log on to [www.army.mil/usar/ar-perscom/arpercom.htm](http://www.army.mil/usar/ar-perscom/arpercom.htm). — *Army Reserve Command PAO*

## TRICARE Update

### Dental Plan Expands Services Offerings

THE Department of Defense's new TRICARE Dental Program will feature lower premiums, expanded services and modified cost ceilings, and will allow enrollment of reserve-component members and their families.

DOD awarded a \$1.8 billion, five-year contract in April to United Concordia Companies Inc., the current TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan administrator. Changes will take effect Feb. 1.

"One of the most significant changes is that reserve component members and their families will be eligible to enroll," said Navy Capt. Lawrence D. McKinley, the TRICARE Management Activity's senior consultant for dentistry.

During the first two years of the contract, premiums for active-duty family members will drop. The \$8.53 single and \$21.33 family rates will drop to \$7.63 and \$19.08, respectively, during the first year and remain below current levels during the second year. Premiums for reserve-component members on extended active duty and their families will mirror those of active duty members, but premiums for families of reserve-component members not on active duty will be somewhat higher. Premiums may rise after the first two years, but "will remain very reasonable," McKinley said.

Other improvements include:

- The enrollment "lock-in" period falls from 24 months to 12. That is, active-duty members must have 12 months left on their current terms of service to enroll. Reserve-component members must "express intent" to remain in the reserve component for at least 12 consecutive months.

- United Concordia will take over enrollment responsibilities from the services' personnel offices. McKinley said this should improve customer service by allowing beneficiaries to deal directly with the contractor. Current enrollees will automatically transfer to the new system.

- The annual maximum for general dentistry increases from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and the lifetime maximum for orthodontic care goes from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

- General anesthesia and intravenous sedation will be covered.

- Coverage of diagnostic and preventive services expands.

McKinley said the program will evolve over the five years of the contract. TMA officials monitor civilian plans to pick up on trends and to look at things worth adopting. "Each option year we will review what we have, and we will improve as we go along if costs will not be increased," he added.

DOD and United Concordia plan to conduct customer-satisfaction surveys monthly. For more information, beneficiaries can call United Concordia's toll-free customer-service line, (800) 866-8499 or visit the company's website at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). — *American Forces Press Service*

cated in the nation's capital.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has placed one of the home's buildings, the Anderson Cottage, on its list of America's 11 most endangered historic places.

Few people today know that one of America's greatest leaders drafted one of the country's most important documents at the cottage. Abraham Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency at his summer residence, the Soldiers' Home, where he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation.

"The Soldiers' Home is probably the country's most significant Abraham Lincoln site, because it is the only one associated with his presidency," said National Trust President Richard Moe. "It is the only major Lincoln site in the country that has not been restored. With proper funding for restoration and education, it could become a great center of learning for all Americans."

Constructed in 1842 and 1843 as the home of George W. Riggs Jr., the retreat was purchased in 1851 by the U.S. government to form the core of the U.S. Soldiers' Home, as an "asylum for old and disabled veterans," which is now a 320-

acre campus in Washington, D.C.

Known to the Lincoln family as "the Soldiers' Home," this 14-room Gothic Revival cottage was their summer residence from 1862 to 1864. In 1865 Lincoln's wife, Mary, wrote to her friend Elizabeth Blair Lee: "How dearly I loved the Soldiers' Home."

It was later named after Brevet Major Robert Anderson, who commanded Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War and who had been an advocate for establishing a home for soldiers.

The Soldiers' Home was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973 for its establishment as the first of its kind to house disabled or retired enlisted American soldiers. At least five other presidents (Pierce, Buchanan, Grant, Hayes and Arthur) used the Soldiers' Home either as a presidential retreat or in some other capacity.

The National Trust has named it an official project of Save America's Treasures.

For more information about the home, visit its website, [www.afrh.com/sol-airm.htm](http://www.afrh.com/sol-airm.htm). — *U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and National Trust for Historic Preservation*



**President Abraham Lincoln wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation at historic Anderson Cottage.**